

WESTROPE 2,325,292. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is directed to an armrest of elongate shape along a main longitudinal axis with a first end region along the axis, and includes a connection member adapted to connect the first end region to the wall with a pivoting connection that permits the armrest to move angularly relative to the wall, a stop piece that is adapted to be secured to the wall, and a locking member that is adapted to co-operate with the stop piece so as to hold the armrest in modifiable manner in a selected angular position.

WESTROPE discloses an armrest with two spaced-apart connection members (13), each in the form of a screw assembly. Each screw assembly slides up and down in slots 34 that are straight. Since the slots are straight, pivoting movement about one of the connection members is not possible. The armrest can only move up and down, not angularly. That is, if one connection member is fixed and the armrest is attempted to move angularly relative to the wall, the straightness of the other slot and its associated connection member will prevent such angular movement. Thus, WESTROPE does not disclose a connection member that defines a pivoting connection about a substantially horizontal transverse axis enabling the armrest to move angularly relative to the wall, and claims 12, 18 and 22 avoid the rejection under §102.

Claim 19 was rejected as unpatentable over WESTROPE in

view of BROCK 4,030,748. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested in view of the comments above.

New claims 23-25 have been added and believed to be allowable because the references do not disclose an elongate shelf having a longitudinal axis, where the shelf has a pivot adjacent to an end thereof about which the shelf rotates (as noted above, the armrest in WESTROPE cannot pivot), where a lock having plural notches is adapted to fix the shelf in plural positions defined by the notches, and where a rod in the shelf is movable generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shelf to unfix the lock to permit rotation of the shelf about the pivot (the references do not disclose such a rod).

The references also do not disclose the stop piece and complementary piece that engages the stop piece to fix the shelf in the plural positions, where movement of the rod separates the stop piece from the complementary piece, as in claim 24, and the radially extended plural notches of claim 25.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

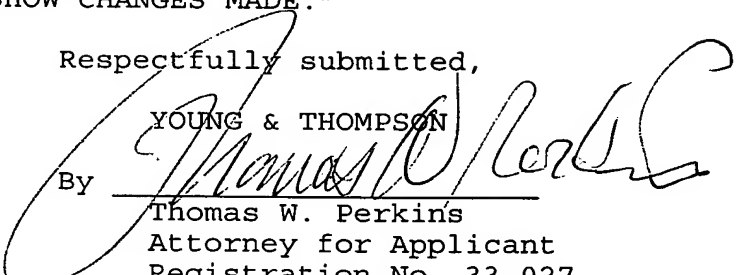
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Attached hereto is a marked-up version showing the changes made to the claims. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

--12. (amended) An armrest for an inside wall of a motor vehicle, [in particular for a door,] the armrest being of elongate shape along a main longitudinal axis, presenting a first end region along said axis, and comprising a connection member adapted to connect said first end region [being connected] to the wall [by means of a connection member], wherein the connection member defines a pivoting connection about a substantially horizontal transverse axis enabling the armrest to move angularly relative to the wall, and wherein the armrest includes a locking member [co-operating with a stop piece] and a stop piece, said stop piece being adapted to be secured to the wall and [adapted] said locking member being adapted to co-operate with said stop piece so as to hold the armrest in modifiable manner in a selected angular position.--

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

--13. (amended) An armrest [according to claim 12] for an inside wall of a motor vehicle, the armrest being of elongate shape along a main longitudinal axis, presenting a first end region along said axis, and comprising a connection member adapted to connect said first end region to the wall, wherein the connection member defines a pivoting connection about a substantially horizontal transverse axis enabling the armrest to

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move angularly relative to the wall, and wherein the armrest includes a locking member and a stop piece, said stop piece being adapted to be secured to the wall and said locking member being adapted to co-operate with said stop piece so as to hold the armrest in modifiable manner in a selected angular position,

wherein the stop piece and the locking member have complementary notches and teeth extending radially relative to the pivot axis, said notches and teeth presenting a plurality of relative positions and being coupled together or uncoupled by relative movement in substantially longitudinal translation.--

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

--15. (amended) An armrest according to claim 13, wherein [the stop piece is fixed relative to the wall and] the locking member has a rod that is slidable relative to the armrest in a substantially longitudinal direction.--

Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

--18. (amended) An armrest according to claim 12, wherein the connection member comprises a shaft adapted to be mounted to turn in a complementary hole of a fixing piece secured to the wall, and a friction ring engaged on said shaft and [bearing] adapted to bear against an adjacent wall of the fixing piece so as to exert torque that resists pivoting of the armrest relative to the wall.--

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

--20. (amended) An armrest according to claim 12, wherein the armrest is secured to a handle member which presents a circularly arcuate rod centered on the pivot axis of the armrest, the rod being [engaged in] adapted to engage a hole formed through a substantially horizontal arm of a force transmission piece secured to the wall so as to enable the rod to slide freely through the hole with a small amount of radial clearance.--